

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00442 120942Z

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 H-01

MCT-01 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /055 W

-----095438 120945Z /23

O R 120900Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9189

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 442

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

STATE FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PLO LA

SUBJ: PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN LAOS

REF: A. STATE 091578, B. 77 VIENTIANE 0679

1. THE PLO IS REPRESENTED IN THE LPDR BY A ONE-MAN OFFICE. THE OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED UPON THE ARRIVAL OF THE CURRENT PLO REPRESENTATIVE, MOUSTAPHA SAPHARINI, MARCH 30, 1977.

2. THE PLO IS INCLUDED IN THE LPDR'S "LISTE DIPLOMATIQUE ET CONSULAIRE" (1978) ALTHOUGH IT IS LISTED OUT OF ALPHABETICAL SEQUENCE FOLLOWING ALL OTHER STATE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00442 120942Z

MISSIONS ACCREDITED TO THE LPDR. IT IS LISTED AFTER THE CHARGES D'AFFAIRES IN THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS GIVEN IN THE SAME PUBLICATION. THE LPDR PERMITS THE PLO OFFICE TO FLY THE PLO FLAG. SAPHARINI IS REGULARLY INVITED TO DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES AND IS USUALLY PLACED AMONG CHARGES D'AFFAIRES IN LAO-ORGANIZED DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION LINES.

3. SAPHARINI IS ASSISTED IN HIS DUTIES BY HIS WIFE, THE DAUGHTER OF THE CURRENT LAO AMBASSADOR TO THE SOVIET UNION. TO THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, HE HAS NO OTHER STAFF. THE EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY OTHER PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN THE LPDR.

4. SAPHARINI PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THE PLO OFFICE IN PEKING AND APPEARS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE MISSION IN VIENTIANE. HE ALSO APPEARS TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE KAMPUCHEAN AMBASSADOR AND THOSE MISSIONS REPRESENTING STATES WITH PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM POPULATIONS, I.E. MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA. SAPHARINI'S RELATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR COOLED NOTICE-ABLY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT SADAT'S MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE IN NOVEMBER. SAPHARINI'S CLOSEST TIES APPEAR TO BE TO THE SOVIET BLOC MISSIONS.

5. SAPHARINI REPORTEDLY WAS SCHEDULED TO HEAD UP THE PLO OFFICE IN PHNOM PENH FOLLOWING HIS ASSIGNMENT TO PEKING BUT "LAST MINUTE ORDERS FROM ARAFAT" CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE IN VIENTIANE INSTEAD. SAPHARINI SAID RECENTLY THAT PLANS TO RETURN TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE NEAR FUTURE (APPARENTLY FOR VACATION) WERE CHANGED BY HIS SUPERIORS WHO ADVISED HIM TO REMAIN IN VIENTIANE FOR THE TIME BEING.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00442 120942Z

6. SAPHARINI HAS HOSTED RECEPTIONS INFREQUENTLY AND HAS NOT PRODUCED A SIGNIFICANT VOLUME OF PLO PROPAGANDA. A WEST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE INTIMATED TO US RECENTLY THAT THE PLO OFFICE HERE FACILITATES THE SECRET TRAVEL OF VARIOUS PLO OFFICIALS TO AND FROM HANOI (WHERE THE PLO ALSO MAINTAINS AN OFFICE) AND BEYOND.

7. COMMENT: THE PLO OFFICE IN VIENTIANE APPEARS TO BE RELATIVELY INACTIVE. WE ARE UNAWARE OF DETAILS REGARDING ALLEGED CLANDESTINE TRAVEL THROUGH VIENTIANE HINTED AT IN COMMENT OF COLLEAGUE (PARA 6).
ROBERTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENTI00442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780157-0160
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780463/aaaacal.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f517d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 91578, 77 VIENTIANE 679
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2988707
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN LAOS
TAGS: PDIP, LA, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f517d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014